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its cultivation and the development of the trade. The zone of the banana nearly girdles the earth and its régime in many lands is here described. We have heard much of the banana in Africa but Sir Harry Johnson is quoted in this book as saying that while the plantain is widely cultivated in that continent, the banana is not common and is of recent introduction, Arab or Portuguese.

Cocoa: Its Cultivation and Preparation. By W. H. Johnson. Imperial Inst. Handbooks. ix and 186 pp., index. John Murray, London, 1912. 5s. 9 x 6.

Mr. Johnson says that the cacao tree thrives best in a hot, equable, moist climate with a well-distributed rainfall. Its cultivation is limited to lands lying between 20° N. lat. and 20° S. lat. Within these parallels the industry is seldom profitable at a higher elevation than 2,000 feet, nor where a protracted dry season occurs. As it is, there are more than 2,000,000 acres under cacao cultivation.

With this important industry the author deals in a careful and detailed manner. Among the many topics are the climatic and soil requirements of cacao trees, laying out a plantation, shading and inter-crops, propagation and general cultivation, fertilizing, diseases, harvesting, fermentation, washing and sun-drying, amount of yield, initial and running expenses of a plantation, manufacture and uses of cocoa. The work is illustrated with photographs.

WILBUR GREELEY BURROUGHS.

All About Coconuts. By Roland Belfort and A. J. Hoyer. xii and 201 pp. Ills., index. St. Catherine Press, London, 1914. 6s. 9 x 6.

The cultivation of the cocoanut is one of the great and growing industries. Its annual value is now twice that of the rubber industry and has nearly doubled in the past few years. This book gives a full account of the cocoanut and its various products, its commercial value, diseases, pests, development and profits of the industry, fertilization, methods of marketing, etc.

The Farmer of To-morrow. By Frederick I. Anderson. vii and 308 pp. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1913. $1.50. 7½ x 5½.

In a recent address before a conservation congress, Ex-President Taft predicted that the United States will have attained a population of 200,000,000 in another fifty years, at the present rate of increase. This being true, can enough food products be raised in the United States to feed this multitude? Mr. Anderson shows that enough food products can be raised. He points out that less than one-half of the 900,000,000 acres owned by the farmer of to-day is improved; and nearly two-thirds of this land, counted as farm land, has not yet been called on to produce food. Also, there are swamps, forests, arid, and semi-arid lands that can be reclaimed and made productive. Thus without increasing the efficiency of its cultivated land, the United States still possesses enough resources of land as yet untilled, to feed double the population of to-day.

With the subject of our present farming system and the reclamation of our waste areas, the author deals at length, treating these questions from an economic viewpoint. Having solved the problem regarding the acreage necessary to support the people of the United States in the rather near future, the author takes up another issue of vital importance. According to the most generally accepted theory of soil fertility the elements necessary for plant growth must be added to the soil or the soil will eventually become infertile. These food elements have been added in great part by minerals mined from the earth. These deposits, however, will become exhausted, and with no added commercial fertilizer, great areas of farm land will cease to produce crops, simply because the food upon which the plant exists is no longer in the soil. A recent theory has been advanced, supported with numerous experiments by the United States Bureau of Soils, that does away with the gloomy prospect of ultimate starvation. The new theory states that potash, phosphorus, and calcium are present in the soil in inexhaustible quantities and are at all times soluble, ready for plant consumption. It is deleterious substances which form in soils that render the land unproductive, and not that the food elements have become exhausted. The most widely found toxin is a compound called dihydroxystearic acid. It has been found that on injecting this acid into a fertile soil, the soil will become infertile. Sterilizing agents, however, have been discovered that will restore the soil to fertility; but for a detailed account of the subject, one must read this most interesting book.

WILBUR GREELEY BURROUGHS.

The Use of Vegetation for Reclaiming Tidal Lands. By Gerald O. Case. 36 pp. Ills. Reprinted from *Engineering,* Aug. 22 and Sept. 12, 1913. London, 1913. 2s. 7½ x 5.

"It is probable," says Mr. Case, "that in the near future 2,000,000 acres of excellent land will be won from the sea to agriculture." This is to be accomplished by vegetation on the foreshore transforming the bare sand or mud into salt marshes. This work will be carried out in estuaries, sheltered bays, areas between islands and the mainland, and on the lee side of shingle or sand spits. A salt marsh having been formed and built up to ordinary high-tide level by vegetation, "it can then be reclaimed by an inexpensive embankment constructed to prevent the land from being overflowed by high spring tides." It has been customary in the past to wait until the original vegetation has covered the foreshore, but Mr. Case suggests that by planting suitable vegetation, large areas, covered by high tide, which now are void of plant life would, at small cost, be formed into salt marshes and could eventually be enclosed by an embankment. An account is given of coasts in various stages of reclamation, the plants most useful for this purpose, and in fact everything pertaining to the subject. The book should prove of practical value.

WILBUR GREELEY BURROUGHS.

Date Growing in the Old World and the New. By Paul B. Popenoe. With a chapter on the food value of the date by Charles L. Bennett. xviii and 316 pp. Ills., index. West India Gardens, Altadena, Cal., 1913. $2. 8½ x 6.

An authoritative book on an industry that is now prominent in our own country and is certain to become one of the largest fruit enterprises in California and Arizona. For two years the author was gathering his material in the most famous date growing regions of the Orient, having been appointed to this mission by the West India Gardens of Altadena, California. After thirty pages given to brief descriptions of the regions in which commercial date growing is now an established industry, the author describes the propagation of the date palm by offshoots and by seed, its culture in which irrigation is the chief item, pollination, handling the crop, artificial ripening, diseases and pests, the classification of dates, profits of the industry, Arab uses of the date, its food value, and date varieties. The book is finely illustrated, but a good map showing the distribution of the date would have been advantageous.

Natural Sources of Energy. By A. H. Gibson. 131 pp. Maps, ills., index. (Cambridge Manuals of Science); G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1913. 7 x 5.

This little work on the world's energy problem is not technical and is adapted for general reading. Discussing sources of energy that will remain to the human race after coal, petroleum and peat are exhausted, the author treats of (1) energy leaving the sun, and reaching the earth as radiant heat; (2) energy of fuels such as vegetable fibres and oil, timber and alcohol of which a permanent supply will exist so long as present seasonal and climatic conditions continue; (3) heat energy stored in the earth; (4) the energy of rivers and waterfall; (5) the energy of the waves of the sea; (6) the energy of the wind. Most of the book is given to an examination of these supplies of energy and of their possibilities as factors in any general power scheme. His main conclusion is that, even when the fossil fuels are exhausted, ample supplies of energy, renewable year by year, will remain for all the activities of the human race. The book is a worthy contribution to the subject it treats.